

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 192

By Lollar

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. A. Ray Newcomb on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of religious and secular leadership; and

WHEREAS, Dr. A. Ray Newcomb is one such estimable person who has served God and his community with distinction for more than thirty-two years as the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Millington; and

WHEREAS, he will be taking a much deserved retirement on May 17, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Newcomb earned his license to preach in 1955 and was ordained to the work of the Gospel Ministry in 1959; and

WHEREAS, before moving to Tennessee, he held a pastorate in Mississippi from 1959 until 1967, and another in Florida from 1967 until 1975; and

WHEREAS, in January of 1976, Dr. Newcomb embarked on his pastorate at First Baptist Church of Millington; since then, he has devoted his life to the people of Millington through preaching to his congregation, visiting members' homes, and going door-to-door to tell others about Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Dr. A. Newcomb, the First Baptist Church of Millington has been ranked in the top ten percent of churches in the Tennessee Baptist Convention for its large number of baptisms of new Christians; in the past ten years, the church has baptized more than 130 people each year; and

WHEREAS, during his time as pastor, Dr. Newcomb has been instrumental in a variety of successful building projects at the First Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, some of these include the 1981 construction of the Family Life Center, the 1990 addition of a nursery building and parking lot, and the 1995 renovation of the worship center, and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the church's congregation purchased eighty-nine acres, and, in 2001, they began construction on a new facility that was completed in the winter of 2003; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2004, the congregation moved into this new building, where they have continued to thrive and grow spiritually, expanding greatly in numbers as a result; and

WHEREAS, since Dr. A. Newcomb first became Senior Pastor at the First Baptist Church, the congregation has grown from 1,636 members in 1976, to 6,472 members in 2008, the average Sunday school attendance has risen from 386 to 1,600, and the total giving receipts, which totaled \$207,000 in 1976, grew to a remarkable total of \$5,000,000 in 2008; and

WHEREAS, another noteworthy milestone during Dr. Newcomb's pastorate was the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the church in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Dr. A. Newcomb is an active and important asset to the community of Millington as well as his calling, participating in numerous worthy organizations, including the Millington Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, he has given his support to the Mid-South Baptist Association by serving on its Executive Board, standing as President of the Pastor's Conference and as Moderator of the Association, and serving as a member of the Evangelism Committee; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Newcomb has also committed his time and many talents to the Tennessee Baptist Convention (TBC), serving as a member of the Resolution Committee and as Chairman of the Education Committee; he was also on the TBC Executive Board and stood as President of the TBC and of the TBC Pastor's Conference; and

WHEREAS, in the Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. Newcomb has served on the Committee on Committees, as an Evangelism Committee member of the Home Mission Board, now known as the North American Mission Board, as President of the Board of Trustees, and as a long-time member of the NET/TimeRite Committee; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his many abilities and significant civic involvement, Dr. Newcomb is an accomplished author who published, *Apostasy as Revealed in the Book of Jude* in 1975; and

WHEREAS, his many hobbies include fishing for large mouth bass, watching NASCAR, and reading; his favorite place to be is at the pulpit preaching; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement, Dr. Newcomb looks forward to the time he will spend with his loving wife and high school sweetheart, Carolyn, as well as his son, Brent, and his grandson, Ridge; and

WHEREAS, Dr. A. Ray Newcomb exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career as a pastor, Dr. Newcomb has demonstrated the utmost compassion, wisdom, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of the people of Millington and the members of the First Baptist Church; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize Dr. A. Ray Newcomb for his many achievements and his dedicated service to Millington and the First Baptist Church, extending our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.